

SECRET

25 October 1966

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TO SAIGON

CITE HEADQUARTERS

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1. THE 26 AUGUST MEMORANDUM ON QTE THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS WILL TO PERSIST UNQTE WAS A SPECIAL PROJECT UNDERTAKEN^{ED} AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF SECRETARY McNAMARA AND WRITTEN EXPLICITLY FOR HIM. ITS OBJECT WAS TO EXAMINE THOROUGHLY ALL AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE AND SIFT THIS INTELLIGENCE DOWN TO A NET ESTIMATE OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS' DETERMINATION AND STRATEGIC INTENTIONS. THE DOCUMENT DREW ON ALL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HQS AND WAS PRODUCED BY A SPECIAL TASK FORCE DESCRIBED ON ITS TITLE PAGE. AT McNAMARA'S REQUEST IT WAS STRICTLY A PROJECT, NOT COORDINATED PRIOR TO PUBLICATION WITH ANY OTHER COMPONENT.

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2. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN VERY TIGHTLY CONTROLLED IN WASHINGTON TO THE POINT WHERE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE (e.g., McNAUGHTON AND ENTHOVEN) WERE NOT GIVEN COPIES WITHOUT THE EXPLICIT

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PAGE TWO

APPROVAL OF McNAMARA'S OFFICE. WE UNDERSTOOD THAT NO COPIES WERE GOING TO THE FIELD, WHICH IS WHY YOU WERE NOT SENT ONE AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION. YOU CANNOT BE LEFT IN THE POSITION, HOWEVER, WHERE MACV HAS A COPY OF A

25X1 [] DOCUMENT OF THIS NATURE AND YOU DO NOT.

3. SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, AMB. LODGE HAS NOT SEEN A ^{BEEN} COPY OR APPRISED OF THE DOCUMENT'S EXISTENCE. WE ARE SENDING YOU TWO COPIES AND SUGGEST THAT YOU SHOW ONE TO HIM, PORTER AND HABIB, ALLOWING LODGE OR PORTER TO RETAIN IT IF EITHER INSISTS BUT ENDEAVORING TO KEEP CUSTODY OF IT YOURSELF IF YOU CAN. YOU CAN IDENTIFY IT AS A STUDY PRODUCED FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WHICH HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO SECRETARY RUSK, ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUNDY, AND AMB. UNGER.

4. THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS PAPER AND THE CONCOMITANT NEED FOR EXERCISING PARTICULAR CARE IN HANDLING, STORING AND DISCUSSING IT WILL BE READILY APPARENT TO YOU WHEN YOU SEE IT.

END OF MESSAGE

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George A. Carver, Jr.
Releasing Officer